



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental Notification

DEQ TO CONDUCT WATER QUALITY SURVEY ON Bayou Pointe Au Chien

(Baton Rouge) - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be installing electronic monitoring equipment that will be utilized in conjunction with a Water Quality Sampling Survey on Bayou Pointe Au Chien. The survey area is located about 15 miles southeast of Houma, Louisiana, on the border of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. The survey is conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect waterbodies. The survey began Tuesday, July 22, 2003 and will end Thursday, July 24, 2003.

The equipment will be mounted on white PVC poles or buoys. Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water at Bayou Pointe Au Chien. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The waterbody will return to its normal state by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at 225.219.3513 or visit the website at www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl.